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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

23 November 1959

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

NO Ethiopia-Somalia UN-conducted negotiations to settle the eight-year border dispute between Ethiopia and the Italian trust territory of Somalia have broken down, according to Italy's UN delegate Vinci. This will further complicate relations between them which were aggravated last summer by Somalia's participation in the formation of a movement designed to achieve unity and independence for all Somali-populated territories, some of which are in Ethiopia. UN officials are considering intervention by Secretary General Hammarskjold to solve the frontier problem before Somalia becomes independent next year.

(Page 3) (Map)

NO Indonesia - Communist China The meeting on 20 November between President Sukarno and Chinese Communist Ambassador Huang Chen on Indonesia's treatment of Overseas Chinese resulted in public statements which, although polite, indicated that the tense situation continues and that no change is likely

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until Huang receives further instructions from Peiping. Communist China is expected to continue its effort to get the alien resettlement program moderated, but it may soften its tactics to prevent a suspension of diplomatic relations. [Indonesian Foreign Minister Subandrio has said that the Soviet ambassador twice approached him with a plea to "keep me out of this."]

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III. THE WEST

Panama: Opposition politicians, labor organizations, and student groups are continuing their plans for a "reaffirmation of sovereignty" march into the Canal Zone on 28 November. Several Cuban reporters have arrived in Panama to cover the expected demonstrations, in response to an invitation sent Latin American newsmen by the director of a government-controlled newspaper. The local press is giving restrained treatment to sensitive US-Panamanian issues and is fully publicizing the Livingston Merchant mission, which it views as an attempt to give sympathetic consideration to Panama's grievances.

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Cuba: Fidel Castro's aim of forging the powerful Cuban Workers' Confederation (CTC) into a disciplined prop for his regime received a serious setback during the current CTC congress. A strong anti-Communist faction led by the heads of 24 of the CTC's 33 constituent federations showed surprising defiance of Castro on 21 and 22 November and forced a prolongation of the session. The faction bitterly fought Castro's attempts to railroad through a "unity slate" of candidates for the 36-man CTC executive committee. The slate contained three known Communists.

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Soviet Credit Offer to Mexico

Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan is reliably reported to have discussed with Mexican officials a \$100,000,000 credit for Mexican economic development. This is Moscow's standard credit offer for underdeveloped countries. The Soviet proposal reportedly is "firm and official," although no details have as yet been revealed. Moscow probably does not expect Mexico to accept.

Mexican officials--unlike many in Latin America who are under political and economic pressure to accept Soviet economic programs--consider the proposal merely a renewal of earlier, less specific offers. Mexico has not fully drawn on the \$400,000,000 in credits made available this year by Western governments and the International Monetary Fund.

In a speech on his arrival in Mexico City, Mikoyan implied that Latin America should take advantage of the current "thaw" to increase contacts with bloc countries; he declared that the talks between Khrushchev and President Eisenhower represent the "beginning of substantial improvement," not only in US-USSR relations but among all countries. His subsequent comments emphasized Soviet technological achievements.

The Soviet press described Mikoyan's welcome as "warm" and portrayed his reception and initial activities as constituting almost a state visit. Moscow newspapers also featured Mexican Foreign Minister Tello's remark on the "necessity" of liquidating colonialism in the Western Hemisphere. [REDACTED]

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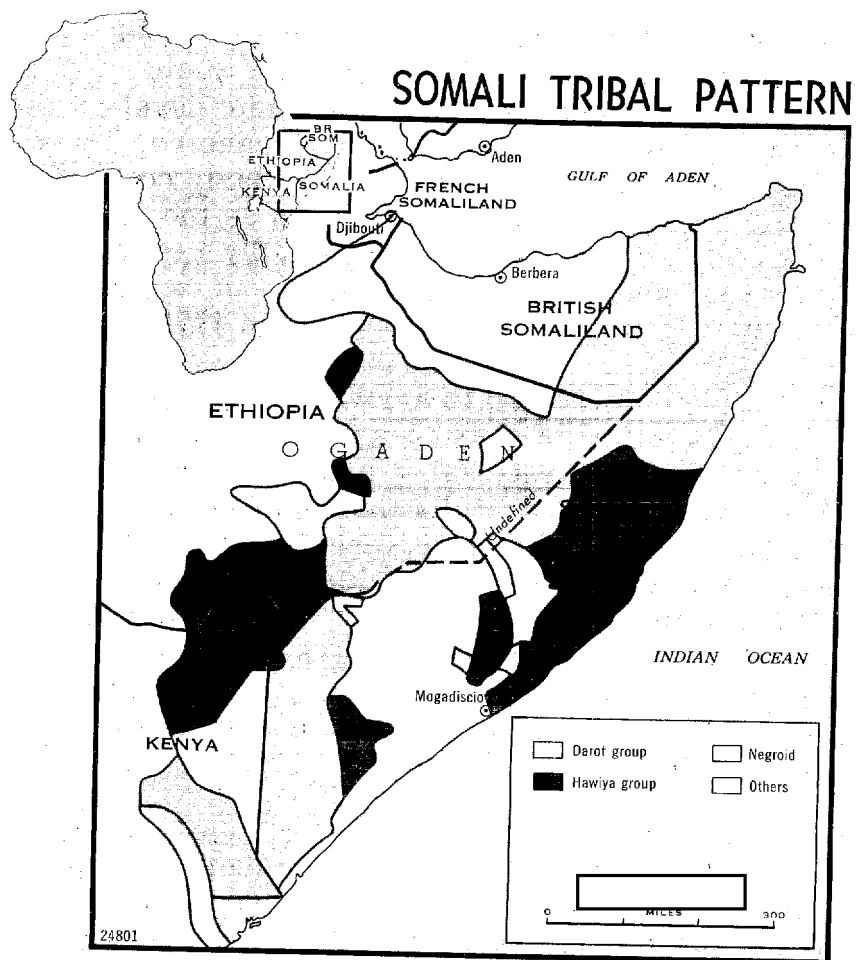
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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Somali-Ethiopian Border Negotiations End in Deadlock

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The UN-conducted negotiations to settle the eight-year border dispute between Ethiopia and the Italian trust territory of Somalia have broken down, according to Italy's UN delegate Vinci. Another Italian official confirmed that the final meeting held on 20 November ended in failure. UN officials now are considering the possibility of UN Secretary General Hammarskjold intervening in an effort to resolve the frontier problem before Somalia becomes independent next year and to forestall a worsening of already tense relations between Addis Ababa and Mogadiscio.

In accordance with a resolution by last year's UN General Assembly, the King of Norway selected former Secretary General Trygve Lie as an "independent person" to assist the disputants in formulating terms of reference--lack of which has hamstrung negotiations for some time. The terms of reference were to guide a three-man arbitral tribunal in demarcating the disputed frontier.

Despite some progress in resolving minor differences, the two parties have refused to compromise on major issues. Ethiopia persists in its contention that only the juridical aspects of the Italo-Ethiopian 1908 boundary convention, which defines the border roughly along the present administrative frontier, should be considered. On the other hand, Somalia--through its Italian representatives--seeks to guarantee the unlimited border-crossing and grazing rights traditionally enjoyed by the 350,000 Somali nomads who drive their herds into the largely uninhabited Ethiopian province of Ogaden during the dry season.

Addis Ababa fears that the right of unlimited incursion might inspire nationalist sentiment among the half million ethnic Somalis living in eastern Ethiopia and lead them to demand that Ogaden Province be included in the creation of a Greater Somali state. Ogaden Somalis--along with nationalist leaders representing ethnic Somalis from the British and French Somaliland enclaves, northern Kenya, and Italian-administered Somalia--participated last summer in the formation of a movement designed to achieve unity and independence for all Somali-populated territories. [REDACTED]

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Sino-Indonesian Tension Continues

The 20 November meeting in Djakarta between Indonesian President Sukarno and Chinese Communist Ambassador Huang Chen apparently has not relieved the tense situation which has developed over Djakarta's implementation and Peiping's obstruction of an Indonesian decree to ban and resettle alien retail merchants now in rural areas. The meeting resulted in public statements which, although polite, indicated no change is likely until Huang receives new instructions from Peiping.

25X1 [Prior to the meeting, Indonesian Foreign Minister Subandrio told the American ambassador that Djakarta felt it could not retreat on an internal policy which is vital to its economic development. At the same time, he reiterated that for obvious reasons Djakarta felt it must maintain friendly relations with Communist China and would lean over backward to do so. Subandrio claimed, however, that the Chinese ambassador might not be able to remain much longer in Indonesia.] Reports that Chinese Embassy officials have been banned from West Java have been officially denied in Djakarta, possibly indicating that local army orders were countermanded by higher officials as being too drastic.

25X1 It is unlikely that Peiping wants relations with Djakarta suspended. Thus, while Communist China probably will continue to express opposition to the removal of Chinese from rural areas, Ambassador Huang may be instructed to use softer tactics and seek postponement of the resettlement program rather than its total repeal.

25X1 [Subandrio also informed the American ambassador that Soviet Ambassador Volkov had approached him about the Chinese dispute on two occasions with the plea to "keep me out of this."] In a broadcast to Indonesia on 21 November, Radio Moscow charged that "Western agents" and "rightist newspapers" in Indonesia were seeking to sow discord between Djakarta and Peiping.

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